MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: If it is to make prohibitive the consumption of toddy and liquor, is not the increase of duty and price only 19%, while the prices of commodities have gone about 200 times?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: In regard to this commodity there is also duty to be added besides the other normal cost of production.

Price of Sugar.

276. *MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the minimum price fixed for a pound of sugar; and

(*b*) does the price vary in different taluks and if so, the prices fixed for Parur and Kunnatnad taluks?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: (*a*) No minimum price has been fixed for sugar.

(*b*) Yes. The present price in the Parur taluk is annas four and six pies a pound, and that in Kunnatnad taluk annas four and three pies a pound.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know the cause for the disparity in prices in the two taluks?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The price of each consignment will depend upon the freight, cost of transport, etc. These consignments were received either at Quilon, or at Alleppey, and the distance from the place of supply would determine the cost of transport, and retail price would differ as it is on the cost of transport that the retail price would depend, the margin of profit being the same in all taluks.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Will the difference come to 3 pies per pound?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: It seems to be due to the difference in the price of the commodity concerned. We allot certain consignments to certain taluks and price may differ on account of transport charge etc., as the same consignment is not sent to all taluks.

Market rates for Jaffna tobacco.

277. *MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the respective market rates for Jaffna tobacco in the months of Medom and Idavam and also in Mithunam and Karkatakam 1119?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: A *statement showing the market rates at some of the principal stations is laid on the table.

New P. W. D. Works in the Alwaye Division.

278. *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Nominated*): With regard to new works in the Alwaye Division of the Public Works Department, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the works provided for in the Budget for each taluk; and

(*b*) the works started in each taluk?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (*a*) & (*b*) A statement furnishing the information is placed on the Secretary's table.

*Vide Appendix III, Page 915.

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